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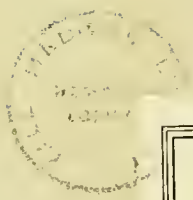
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TREATMENT

OF

IMBECILES AND EPILEPTICS.



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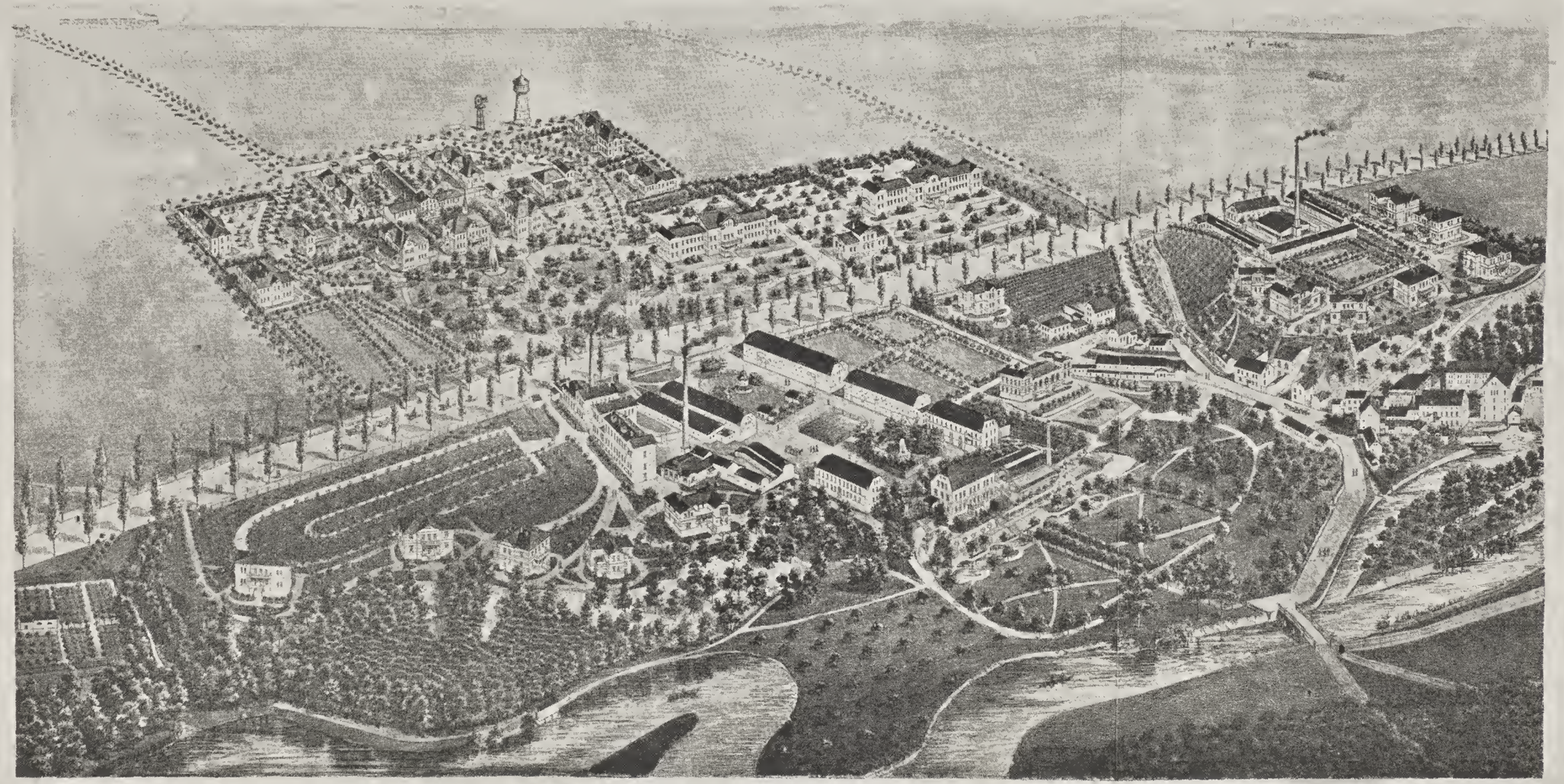
Herewith is enclosed for your notice, a copy of a report made by Dr. Rhodes and Mr. Alderman McDougall, both well known in Poor-Law administration, on the question of the treatment of Epileptics and Imbeciles. You will observe that in the preparation of their report for publication, they have avoided the use of technical language, feeling it desirable to increase an intelligent interest in this important question amongst all sections engaged in social ameliorative work, whether officially or otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
THE PUBLISHERS.

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Alt Scherbitz Asylum

TREATMENT

OF

IMBECILES AND EPILEPTICS.

REPORT

BY

Dr. J. M. Rhodes, C.C., and Alderman A. McDougall, J.P.,
to the Chorlton and Manchester Joint
Asylum Committee,

ON THE

BEST METHODS FOR THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF IMBECILES AND EPILEPTICS.

Manchester:
Poor-Law Officers' Journal, 10, Queen Street.

1897.



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THE TREATMENT OF IMBECILES AND EPILEPTICS.

To the Members of the Chorlton and Manchester Joint Asylum Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the 27th August, 1897, you appointed us "to visit such Institutions for the treatment of Imbeciles and Epileptics in Germany, France, and Belgium," as we might deem desirable, for the purpose of collecting information with regard to the care and treatment of such cases, in the afore-mentioned countries.

Your appointment was made under a sense of the importance of this question from every point of view, and with a knowledge that it is one which requires dealing with in a thorough and systematic manner. As the Joint Committee will remember, the area of the Chorlton Union and the Manchester Township together is 13,345 statute acres, and the population contained in this area is 444,965. In the Workhouses of Chorlton and Manchester there are close upon 600 Epileptics and Imbeciles. In addition, a large number of cases are now maintained in the County Asylums by the Chorlton and Manchester Boards, which should be provided for in any new building the Joint Committee may decide to erect. It is evident that under the system of providing for the wants of these unfortunate sufferers in the Workhouse there can be no such thorough method of classification as between mental derangement or Idiocy and Epilepsy as is deemed necessary both on account of the patient and of society at large. Also, the resources of the County Asylums are taxed in affording provision for a number of Epileptic Imbeciles who could with far greater advantage be treated in a separate Asylum or Asylums, as on the Continent. And again, there are cases of epilepsy outside institutions for which neither the County Asylum nor the Workhouse is at all suitable, but for which it would be desirable to afford the various advantages of a special institution.

With regard to certain details the Continental systems, which we presently describe, will no doubt, need adaptation to the requirements peculiar to this country, and some degree of modification to meet English customs as distinct from the customs of Germany or France. This is a matter that will remain to be considered in the adoption of the plans with which we deal. We have, therefore, described for the particular information of the Joint Committee, the salient features and administrative methods of a number of hospitals visited in the three countries we have named. Having performed that duty, and having carefully considered the results of our enquiries, we agree in recommending:—

(1.) That of the Epileptics and Imbeciles, the mental and bodily sick—say 20 per cent.—should be provided for in pavilions similar to the Wilhelmina Augusta Pavilions at Alt-Scherbitz.

(2.) That the Epileptics and Imbeciles who are not physically incapable—say 80 per cent.—should be provided for in Homes on the Colony plan, and that not more than 30 persons should be placed in each Home.

(3.) That provision should be made for those able to pay a proportionate sum towards their maintenance.

In support of these recommendations we may point out to the Committee that the system we advocate is one that has been approved by two important Conferences. The International Congress on Public Assistance, held at Paris in 1889, passed a Resolution in favour of the Colony system. Le Congres International de Medecine Mentale passed a similar Resolution. In recommending the system they based their reason for so doing on the grounds (1) that the physical and mental health of the patients is improved under the system; (2) that the cost is less to the ratepayers.

It has been proved beyond the possibility of doubt that where the patients are employed in manual labour, they are better than if they were allowed to pass their time in idleness.

In our Report we have dealt at considerable length with the Asylum at Alt-Scherbitz. The number in that Asylum is very nearly the same as we propose to provide for, namely, 960. The authorities have shown their wisdom in buying enough land, 760 acres. The cost of an Asylum built on the simple plan of Alt-Scherbitz is not greater, in fact is less, than that of the great block Asylums. The figures given by Dr. Paetz in his work, "Colonisering der Geisteskranken," are:—

Land	£50,000
Buildings and Electric Light	86,000
	£136,000

This amount gives the cost per bed as £142, a very moderate sum compared with the cost of the huge block asylums with which we are so well acquainted.

We would strongly urge upon the Committee the importance of buying sufficient land. If only a small quantity of land is bought at first and additional land purchased later, the authorities are at a great disadvantage in the negotiations.

Dr. Sibbald in his excellent pamphlet (a) on Modern Asylums gives the plans of three British Asylums, and we think it may be useful to place the figures in tabular form before the Committee:—

Asylum.	Year erected.	Acres.	Patients.
Derby	1851	79	360
Barony (Glasgow)	1875	167	500
Gartlock (Glasgow)	1896	344	524

Since 1875 the Glasgow Asylum Board have purchased no less than 292 additional acres for the Barony Asylum, of which the cost is not stated. At Prestwich and many other places additional land has had to be purchased at a much greater cost than if it had been bought at the date of the first purchase.

A glance at the figures in the foregoing table will show how rapidly the opinion is gaining ground that a large area of land is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the patients.

It is desirable that the buildings for the patients should be provided on the system adopted at Alt-Scherbitz and Uchtspringe. At both places the pavilions for the sick are broken up into small wards, each containing ten or a dozen beds. This system appears to be almost universally adopted in the best Asylums in Germany, and we have no doubt from our own observations and also from the opinions expressed by the Medical Directors of the various Asylums that such an arrangement is largely conducive to the quietude and comfort of the patients. Everyone is acquainted with the pernicious result a disturbed night has even upon the healthy. Such a result is no doubt greater upon those mentally weak. The system of small wards greatly reduces the risk of disturbance to the patients by noisy cases.

(a) "On the Plans of Modern Asylums for the Insane Poor": John Sibbald, M.D. Turner and Co., Edinburgh.

The provision for those physically well though mentally weak and harmless, who are in similar case with a very large proportion of those for whom we are about to provide, is best made on what is termed the Colony system, which is really the Cottage Home system as now generally adopted for new Union Schools.

We describe in the following pages the Asylum at Alt-Scherbitz as giving a very good idea of a German Imbecile Asylum of less elaborate character than some of the others visited by us. Four-fifths of the patients at this Asylum are of the class for whom we are called upon to make provision.

A reference to the views and plans will show that the Cottages, which contain from 20 to 30 each, have three Day-Rooms on the ground floor, besides a small room for those who are actually suffering from an epileptic attack. We strongly recommend this system, as, although the Colony system allows for good classification, yet the three rooms enable the patients to still further classify themselves, and we are strongly of opinion that such provision is conducive to the quiet and contentment which we found to prevail among the patients.

This Report must be understood as one of a preliminary character. We feel, however, that our work will not have been done in vain should it result in the final acceptance of the opinion we expressed some time ago, namely, that there should, or, indeed, must be, a thorough Inquiry and Report upon this subject. We believe that if the Local Government Board would empower three such gentlemen as Mr. Jenner-Fust, Dr. Downes, and Mr. Gordon Smith to visit and report upon the Asylums containing Epileptics in Germany, the information would be invaluable to the Boards of Guardians and also to the County Councils.

In placing our report before you, we cannot conclude without expressing thanks to the Marquess of Salisbury, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, and also to the Authorities in Belgium, France, and Germany, who gave us every assistance in our enquiries. The untiring patience and courtesy of the Continental Authorities we shall always gratefully remember.

We are, Ladies and Gentlemen, yours faithfully,

JOHN MILSON RHODES, M.D., Chairman.
ALEXANDER McDOUGALL, Vice-Chairman.



ALT-SCHERBITZ ASYLUM.—ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK.

ALT-SCHERBITZ ASYLUM, SCHKEUDITZ, NEAR LEIPSIC.

This is one of the two Asylums provided for the Province of Saxony, and is well-known as being to a large extent conducted upon what has been termed the open-door system, as a much larger amount of liberty is allowed to harmless inmates than is usual in England. The Asylum is a little distance from Schkeuditz, a small roadside station on the main line from Halle to Leipsic. The country is well wooded. The grounds are intersected by several public roads which, we were informed, are not considered any detriment to a Colony Asylum—the system which has been adopted here. A small river, the Elster, flows through the grounds, and though the Asylum has been open many years no accident, we were informed, has occurred to the patients through the proximity of the water. The buildings for the sick are on the pavilion plan, as will be seen from the general view given of this Asylum. The largest buildings on the estate each contain 80 patients, but the new buildings are made to contain fewer, as the patients are less disturbed in small buildings than in large. Only 30 patients are accommodated in the houses in which are lodged Class 3, the class which corresponds to our pauper lunatics. In Classes 1 and 2 there are only 20 in a house. At this Asylum there is a very considerable number of these small detached houses for the insane. The extent of ground covered is very large, considering that the number of patients provided for is about 1,000. One hundred and sixty of these are in special Asylums for troublesome cases. The remainder are, of course, under a certain amount of restraint when they are using the grounds. In the event of contagious disease breaking out in this Asylum one of the houses is set aside and used as a hospital so long as the epidemic lasts. The houses closely resemble ordinary good villa residences, and are divided into three classes, somewhat similar to the provision made in the Royal Asylums in Scotland, a system we should be glad to see adopted in England, and which we recommend the Committee to obtain power to adopt. Inmates specified under Class 1 pay £80 per annum if belonging to the Province; £100 to £125 if coming from outside the Province. Patients who pay this sum are provided each with a separate well-furnished bed-

room, and the number in the house is small, only about 20. The day-rooms are well furnished, fitted with chairs upholstered with velvet, pianos, carpets on the floors, velvet-covered couches, and plenty of decorative and other ornaments about. Class 2, who pay £40 per annum if resident in the Province, are provided for three in a bedroom. Class 3 who number 680, and constitute the pauper class, are paid for at the rate of £20 per annum. Those from the town of Leipsic are allowed to come at £12 per annum. Patients in this class are provided for in dormitories with about 6 or 8 patients in each. Two very good pavilions have been built for the sick of this class, and are named the Wilhelmina Augusta Institute. All the houses are fitted with verandahs, which are provided with seats, and also with curtains to keep off the sun and wind. The outsides of the houses are covered with ivy or other creepers, giving a very pleasant and homely look to the buildings. The day-rooms for the pauper class have polished oak floors with painted walls and are fitted with looking-glasses and other decorations. All the tables have tablecloths, and there are curtains to the windows. The wards had a very pleasant appearance, and are not like what we are too often accustomed to see in Workhouse wards. All the dormitories are, as in the day-rooms, provided with white lace curtains to the windows, and also with stands upon which the patients hang their clothes at night. The lavatories are well tiled with black and white tiles, giving them a clean appearance. All the day-rooms for the male patients we found provided with hat stands, and here, as in all other German Asylums, a very large number of couches and chairs of Austrian pierced wood, and also wicker arm chairs, are used. Most of the rooms we found contained writing tables, and birds in cages, as well as plants in pots, which are used for decoration. The kitchen, which provides for the wants of the whole establishment is paved with black and white tiles, which are slightly roughened to prevent slipping. The walls are faced with blue and white glazed tiles. All the food for the Colony, cooked in this kitchen, is delivered to the various houses by a van fitted with double sides in order to prevent the food from becoming cold. We had an opportunity of examining and testing the food contained in the cans when the van was on its round; it was so hot as to be almost uneatable, and was certainly of good quality and well cooked. All the boilers in the kitchen are also covered with glazed tiles and provided with rims in which water is put so as to prevent as far as possible the escape of steam.

In going round this Asylum we found that in all the buildings of the larger size for the sick a small isolation ward was provided for serious cases, and that this small room had an outer door, so that if the



ALT-SCHERBITZ ASYLUM.—PAVILION FOR SICK PAUPERS (3RD CLASS ONLY).

case terminated fatally the body could be removed without having to be taken through the ward.

This Asylum is celebrated for its numerous methods of employing capable patients. About one-third of the patients live in the Colony Houses, and are principally employed in out-door occupations. A large quantity of land—750 acres—is under cultivation, and presents the appearance of a well-managed farm.

A large number of the patients, as we have said, are employed on the farm. One hundred and eighty men were working on it on the day of our visit, and as hay-making was in progress eleven yoke of oxen were employed in carrying the new hay to the farmyard. A very large number of cows are also kept, over 60, and some hundreds of sheep. These, of course, require looking after by the men. All the men working on the farmyard or in the fields are provided with jack boots. The principal occupations carried on are chair-caning, wood carving, of which we saw excellent specimens done by some of the patients, straw mat making, and basket-making. The bricks required for the establishment are made on the estate and by the patients. Many of the women are engaged in knitting and in the work of the houses. Crockery ware is used throughout the Asylum, no tin vessels being used for the food.

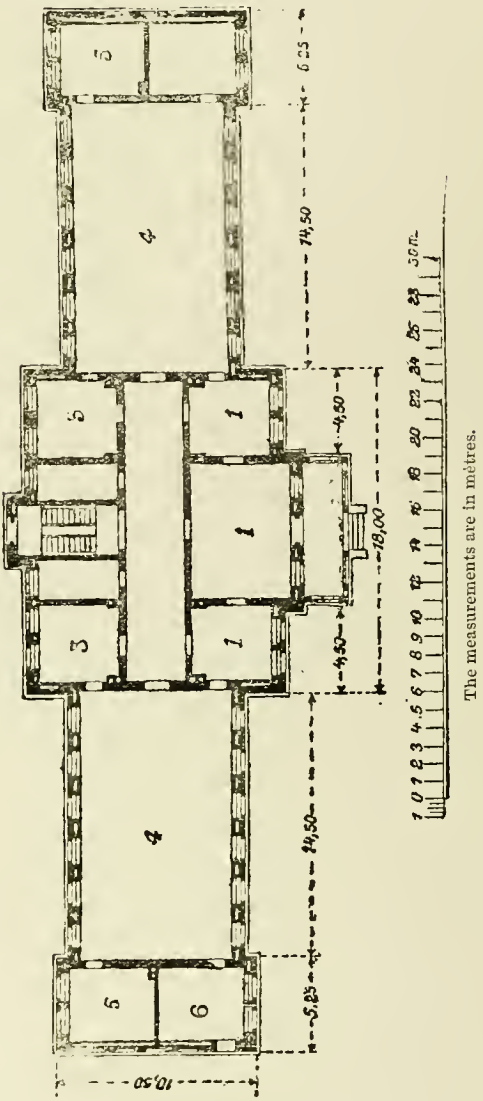
We were much pleased with this Asylum. The contented look of the patients afforded proof of the excellent understanding that exists between the physicians, of whom there are six, and the patients. Though pictures are not as much used in German Asylums to decorate the walls as in England, yet the stencilling on the walls and ceilings, the looking-glasses, curtains, antimacassars, etc., and couches which are freely used give a pleasant appearance to the houses. We may mention in passing that food is served out to the patients as they require it. For instance, soup is served in tureens and on plates and not in the tin pannikins with which we are so well acquainted.

We ought to have mentioned that women are also employed in the fields in addition to the cooking, cleaning, washing, and laundry and general work of the Asylum, as such work is found to be beneficial for them. The grounds are well laid out; the buildings very complete and commodious.

This Asylum was built some years before those of Wuhlgarten, and is without some of the modern conveniences in the more recently erected Asylums. There is not the same means of warming from a central block of steam boilers, and each building has to be warmed by stoves. There is no electric light, and the lighting is by mineral oil lamps. Water is not so abundant as at Wuhlgarten.

The views we give of the Alt-Scherbitz Asylum, will, with the following plans, afford a much better idea of it than any verbal description.

ALT-SCHERBITZ ASYLUM.



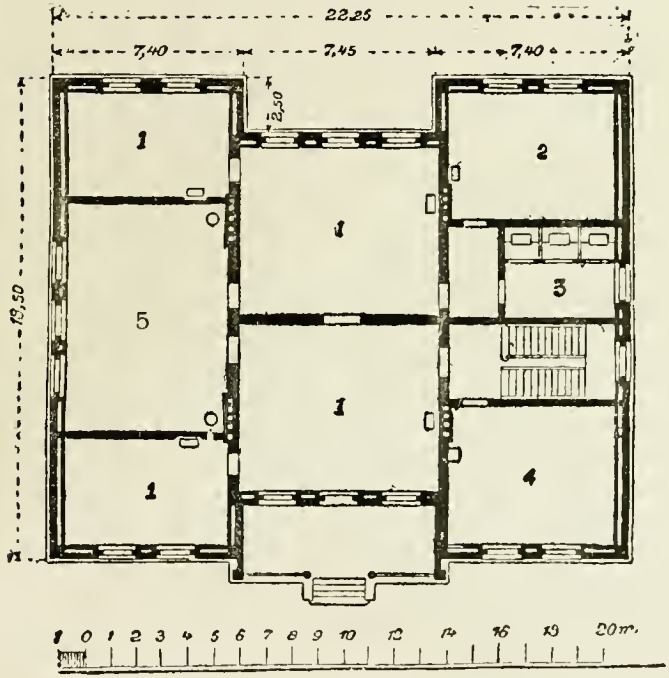
PAVILION FOR THE SICK PAUPER INSANE.

1.—Day Room. 2.—W.C. 3.—Lavatory. 4.—Dormitories.
5.—Wardrobe. 6.—Isolation Ward.



VILLA AT ALT-SCHERBITZ ASYLUM.

ALT-SCHERBITZ ASYLUM.

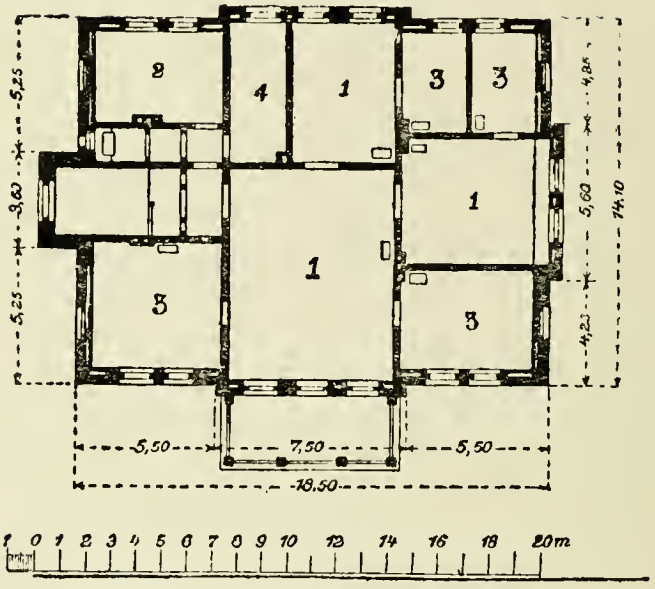


The measurements are in mètres.

GROUND PLAN OF VILLA FOR PAUPER CASES.

1.—Day Room. 2.—Scullery. 3.—W.C. 4.—Dressing Room. 5.—Bath Room and Lavatory.

ALT-SCHERBITZ ASYLUM.



The measurements are in mètres.

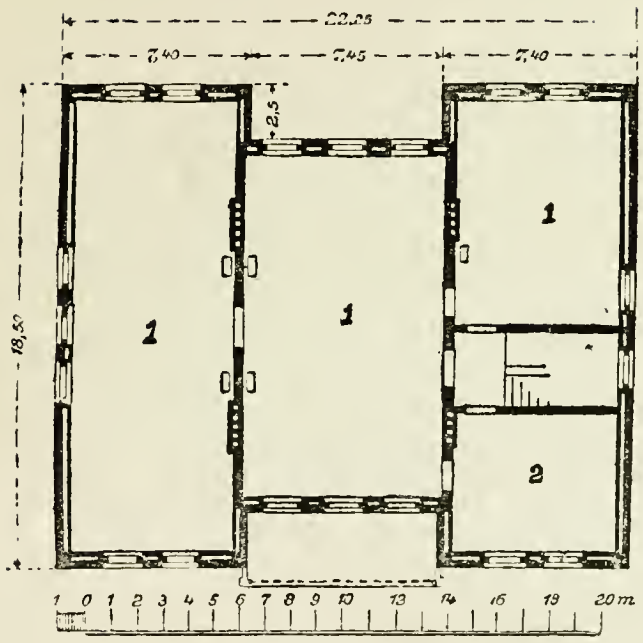
PLAN OF VILLA FOR FIRST CLASS CASES.

1.—Day Room. 2.—Lavatory. 3.—Dormitories and Sitting Rooms. 4.—Wardrobe.



VILLA AT ALT-SCHERBITZ ASYLUM.

ALT-SCHERBITZ' 'ASYLUM.

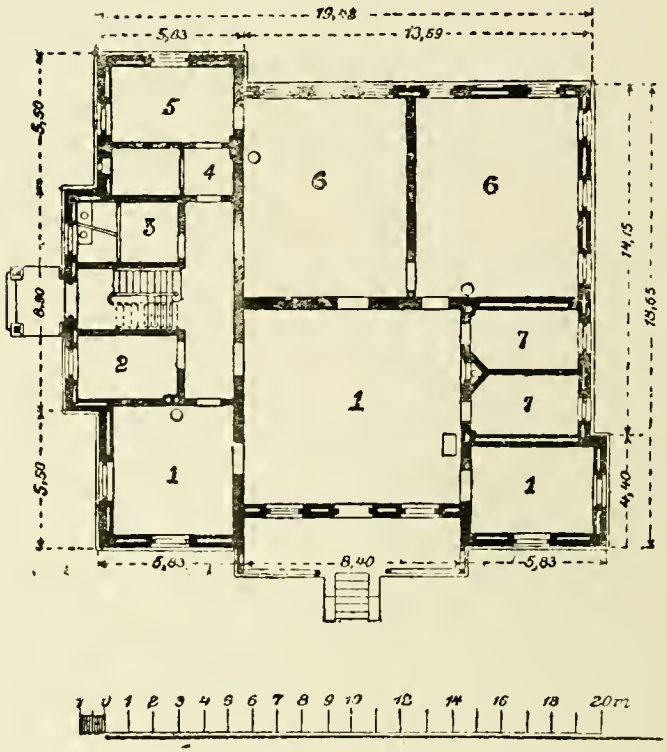


The measurements are in mètres.

UPPER FLOOR OF VILLA FOR PAUPER CASES.

1.—Dormitories. 2.—Wardrobe.

ALT-SCHERBITZ ASYLUM.



The measurements are in mètres.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF RECEPTION VILLA.

1.—Day Room. 2.—Scullery. 3.—W.C. 4.—Room for patients suffering from epileptic attack. 5.—Lavatory. 6.—Dormitories. 7.—Rooms for attendant.



VILLA AT ALT-SCHERBITZ ASYLUM.



UCHTSPRINGE ASYLUM, NEAR MADGEBURG.

The Uchtspringe Asylum has only been opened four years, and is not quite finished. It is more modern than Alt-Scherbitz, after the model of which it has been built, with the difference that the pavilion portion of the Asylum is smaller, and the Colony houses proportionally more numerous than at Alt-Scherbitz.

The number of epileptics and imbeciles is much larger at this Asylum, and a greater number of children are received. The grounds are very extensive—800 morgen*—and the Colony houses are further apart, and more distinct from the central offices. Several new buildings are in course of erection, and those intended for patients are all on the Colony system. The cost of the land was £50 per English statute acre.

There being many epileptics here, we saw more indications of the occurrence of fits; special attention is given to this malady. Every occurrence of a fit is recorded, and an annual report made regarding each epileptic, giving the number of fits each patient has had in the year, and stating accurately whether they happened in the day or the night.

The patients are occupied as at Alt-Scherbitz on the land and in the gardens, with workshops for those who can work at the usual manual occupations. The women go to work in the fields, and also do the necessary cleaning, washing, and laundry work of the Asylum.

When the new buildings are completed the Asylum will be a very large one. It affords room at present for 700 adult patients and 150 children. The impression received from the statements of the Medical Staff was that the extension of the Colony system in all new Asylums is certain.

It should, perhaps, be explained that, as regards its whole arrangements, the Asylum is the most elaborate visited by us. The Asylum proper is a building of red brick with buff brick dressings. Some of the stone buildings are of considerable size—e.g., the administration block and recreation hall—but the majority of the buildings are on the Colony system. Their boundaries are of a very slight description, in many instances consisting only of a two-wire fencing. All the buildings throughout the establishment are fitted with electric light and telephones. The electric installation here is the finest we have seen. Especially is this the case in regard to the apparatus provided in a

*5 morgen equals 3 acres.

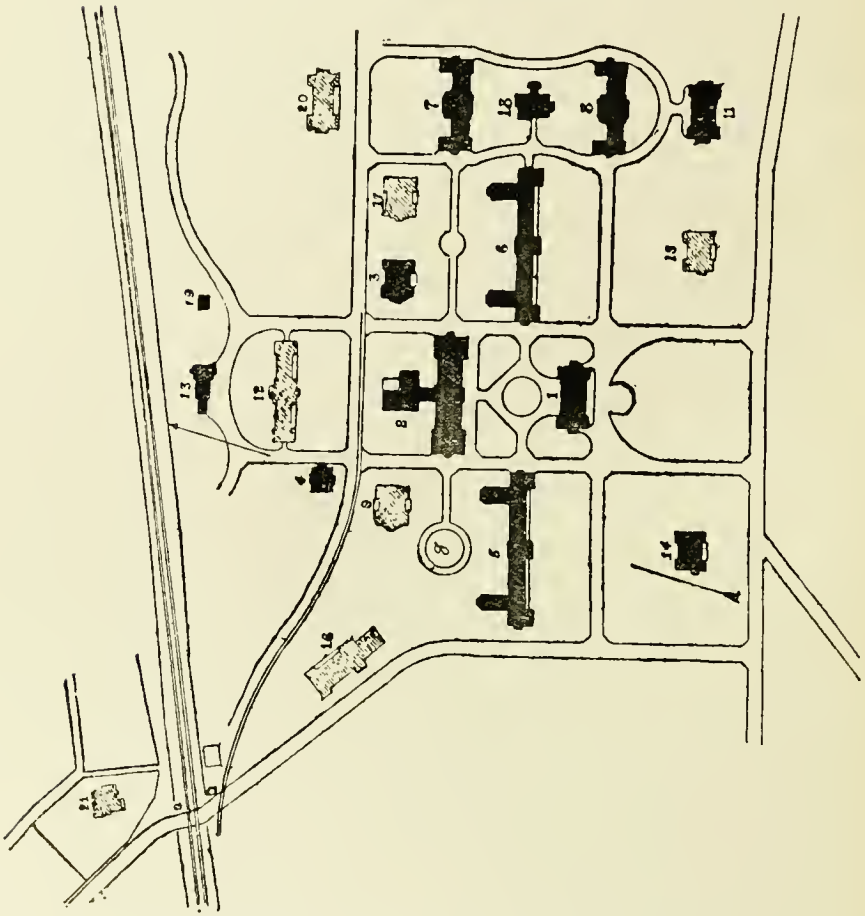
special room for medical purposes, such as galvanism, Rontgen rays, and others. Of the 700 patients in the Asylum about 300 are epileptics, and the 150 children are either imbeciles or epileptics. The staff of attendants required appears to be large, as the number provided is one for every seven patients, and these do not include foremen employed on the land. Accommodation is provided in the proportion of six small houses to one large and one of medium size. The Asylum is stated to have altogether cost between three and four million marks. Here, as at Alt-Scherbitz, the patients are divided into three classes. Those in Class 1 pay 4s. 6d. per day, in Class 2 they pay 2s. 6d. per day, and in Class 3 the payment, which is usually found for the patient, is 1s. 2½d. per day. Near the administrative block we found an excellent operating room. The whole of the walls are of white enamel bricks. The lavatories are of marble with nickle-plated fittings; the operating table, we observed, was also nickle-plated. The operating room is provided with a full set of photographic apparatus of the latest description. The recreation rooms are almost equal in size to an ordinary borough town hall, and are provided with stage and ante-rooms. At present the large room is also used as a church, as no church has yet been erected. Passing on to the sick wards we found that all the beds had been provided with spring mattresses with horsehair palliasses. Bed-side cupboards of metal, with plated glass tops, were provided for each bed. The upper blankets of the beds were enclosed in sheets. This system, we were informed, is found more convenient for dealing with the insane. All the floors, in this Asylum are of oak polished with beeswax. Every pavilion is furnished with a weighing machine, in order that the weight of each patient on admission can be registered. All the buckets for slops are of enamelled iron ware, as the ordinary description is not considered clean enough for an Asylum. The mortuary is fitted with a marble revolving table, upon which to make post-mortem examinations, and there is an elaborately-fitted pathological laboratory. The lavatories in which the doctors wash their hands after a post-mortem examination are on the douche system. The doctors are of opinion that that system allows more perfect cleansing of the hands than when they are washed in an ordinary basin. Attached to the mortuary is a small chapel, with an elaborate altar, well decorated. The fittings are of oak throughout. Passing on to the laundry we found this to consist of a two-storey building fitted with an electric hoist. The lower floors are fitted with the best machinery, though a considerable number of the women were employed washing by hand at a row of small vats formed of cement. The engine house, of course, is near; its walls are of plaster, painted. Two engines of 100 horse power each are used to supply the dynamos for the electric light, which is used throughout the establishment. The kitchen

is another separate building, and here, as at Alt-Scherbitz, it supplies the whole of the food required, and is fitted with the best apparatus for cooking food on a large scale. The number of boilers provided for cooking the various kinds of food is considerably larger than in English Asylums, and we were rather surprised to find these boilers nickle-plated. As in several of the Asylums, the food is here served at two separate bars, one for men and one for women. At this Asylum epileptics are not allowed beer. Other patients have beer, brewed on the German method. In visiting the dormitories we found that all the beds are fitted with rising bed-rests. All the wards in the dormitories are covered with linoleum. Electricity is used for lighting the wards on a new plan. An apparently simple switch is provided, and a quarter turn of the tap gives only a glimmer light; an additional quarter-turn gives the full light. By a proper use of the switch the patients are not disturbed by a too bright light at night, the light being no more than sufficient for the attendants to see that the patients are all right. The dormitories are fitted with wash stands, in addition to the separate lavatories. The day-rooms are fitted throughout with Austrian bent wood furniture. The walls here, as at Alt-Scherbitz, are usually painted and stencilled, as are also the ceilings. All the windows are draped with long curtains, which give a finished look to the rooms. Ice cupboards are provided in all the houses for storing food and drink. There is a large brass band, which has been organised amongst the patients in the Asylum. Though this establishment is conducted on a principle which allows the patients a large amount of liberty, two only have tried to escape during the four years that have elapsed since the Asylum was first opened. A village has been built near the Asylum for the attendants. The houses, of which it is composed are occupied by married couples, who, as a rule, have three harmless patients of the pauper class residing with them. It was, certainly, a novelty to us to see pauper lunatics walking about smoking cigars. The buildings in which the female patients live cost £600 each. All these houses have polished floors, the walls are painted and stencilled, and the whole of the water is pumped by electricity. In the children's department 160 children are provided for. Their block of buildings is on the side corridor plan. The school rooms here, as at another Asylum we visited are small; it is stated, in order that the attention of the children may not be taken off. No more than two children sit at a desk. All the seats provided for the desks have backs which are at different heights, so that each child can have a desk adapted to its height. In one room we found eight children being taught as they lay in bed by the use of the blackboard. We were informed that

some epileptic children are found to do much better if taught lying in bed than sitting in the school as ordinary children. In the dining room and the dormitories we found that chairs were used instead of benches.

PLAN OF THE UCHTSPRINGE ASYLUM.

[The plan of the entire colony is not obtainable.]



1.—Direction. 2.—Kitchen and Laundry. 3.—Villa for 40 patients. 4.—Engineer's House. 5.—Pavilion for male cases. 6.—Pavilion for female cases. 7.—Pavilion for female children. 8.—Pavilion for male children. 9.—Villa for male cases. 11.—Officials' Residence. 12.—Sick Pavilion. 13.—Chapel. 14. and 15.—Villa for 25 1st class cases. 16.—Recreation Hall. 17.—Villa for patients. 18.—School for children. 19.—Disinfection House. 20.—Children's Hospital. 21.—Engine and Pumping Room. E.—Ice House.

BIELEFELD EPILEPTIC COLONY.

This Epileptic Colony is at Bielefeld in Upper Westphalia, where a Colony for Epileptics was established thirty years ago. The original number with which it started was four; the number now provided for in the institution is between two and three thousand. The Colony is situated on the road that leads from Bielefeld to Gadderbaum. The site is rather hilly and by no means a beau-ideal one from the usual point of view of English specialists. Probably the present site would not have been adopted had there been any idea that the Colony would eventually grow to its present enormous size. The estate is intersected by several public roads, and there is no methodical arrangement of the buildings. Boundary walls are conspicuous by their absence, low hedges taking their place. There is evidently a large amount of fruit-growing done on the estate. The buildings are similar to large German villas. In addition to the villas, a very large hall for concerts and theatrical entertainments, capable of holding 2,000 people, was in process of erection. In connection with the hall for entertainments we found that both a brass and a string band had been organised among the inmates. The patients are divided into three classes. Those in Class 1 pay 2,000 to 2,500 marks per annum; in Class 2 they pay 1,200 marks; and in Class 3 they pay or are paid for at the rate of 450 marks per annum (the real cost, however, is about 500 marks). The value of a mark, it will be remembered, is 11¾d. in English money.

Though this Institution has been established for philanthropic purposes other than the care of Epileptics and Imbeciles, yet this is the most important object.

The principle of grouping patients into families, under the close personal care of the House Father or House Mother, has here been fully carried out. The House Parents are assisted by Deacons and Deaconesses, who not only superintend, but also work with the patients, and exert continual influence on those under their care. There was every evidence of a close and kindly interest on the part of the House Father and his helpers in each group we saw; and there is no doubt an outcome of success by the occupation, as is done here, of the time of Epileptics in useful and cost-returning employments. This is a very desirable object—in striking contrast to the dull and monotonous life of Epileptics and Imbeciles in Workhouse wards. Too often the only employment for this class is wheeling, or rough delving on a Workhouse farm.

The experiences of the work at Bielefeld is favourable to the formation of groups of small numbers of patients into households, with sympathetic and well-disposed attendants. Here, the House Parents and assistants enter upon their work from altruistic motives; the pay is small, and the work not attractive as an occupation.

We visited the workshops and saw some very good work that was being done. In one place cabinet-making was going on, and we saw cupboards, wardrobes, and other articles in course of manufacture. Two-thirds of these employed were confirmed epileptics. In the shoe shop there were three foremen and nineteen patients employed; the whole of the shoes required are made on the premises. In the tailors' shop sixteen patients were employed, and here, as at the shoemakers', the work is done by the patients. In addition to the trades mentioned, a large amount of basket-making is done.

The Medical Staff for the establishment consists of four Resident Medical Officers, and two Consultants, who visit the establishment. One Medical Officer is also employed at the Labour Colony, and occasionally an additional one has to be procured.

The whole place is lit with the electric light. Electricity is also used to run the washing and calendering machinery.

A considerable number of the patients are also employed in brick-making, in pottery, and in making toys out of tin, such as the tin railway trains dear to children. Everything is done in this establishment to enliven the patients by employment, and we found that various Houses were used for various trades; the patients living, sleeping, and working in the House. A considerable number of them are engaged in work on the farm, and work in the nursery garden. A large trade is also done in seed-growing, and they appear to have a connection all over Germany in this branch of business. Book-binding and printing are also carried on.

We saw very few sullen countenances. There were, of course, many faces expressive of but slight intelligence; but on nearly all, there was at least a look of interest and curiosity, showing that the mental power, however small, was at least trained into exercise. Evidently, here as all through Germany, there is much reliance upon bromide of potassium, and the bromide rash was present in several cases.

Each House is complete in itself, the House Father and Mother living in the same House as the patients. All the Houses have a homely appearance, and probably this is due to a considerable extent to the fact that in Lunatic Asylums or Epileptic Colonies in Germany benches are rarely seen, chairs nearly always being substituted for them.

STATE ASYLUM FOR CHRONIC LUNATICS, DALLDORF, NEAR BERLIN.

The Asylum for chronic lunatics at Dalldorf is situated three miles from Berlin. The soil in the great tract of country surrounding Berlin is of a very barren and sandy nature, and it reflects great credit upon the authorities of this Asylum that they have effected a complete transformation. Instead of a barren waste we found a beautiful and well-wooded estate, on which vegetation appeared to flourish luxuriantly. The buildings of this Asylum are all two stories in height, except the administrative block, which is three stories high. They are buildings of the ordinary yellow brick, common in this part of the country, with red terra-cotta bands. The pavilions are widely detached from each other. To provide for the transport of coals and food to them a tramway has been laid down. All through the establishment the floors are either of polished hard wood or covered with linoleum. Very large billiard rooms and dancing rooms have also been provided for the patients. The Sick Wards are small, containing only six beds in each, and this is found to conduce greatly to the quiet and comfort of the patients, as the risk of being disturbed by a noisy patient is thereby very greatly diminished. In addition to these small wards a very large number of single rooms have been provided, and talkative or noisy patients are placed in them. The epileptic patients are here provided with beds having padded sides (a kind of box-bed), to prevent the patients from injuring themselves. The day rooms all have polished floors, wooden chairs, tables with table covers, and white lace curtains to the windows. There are 30 to 40 patients in a Home. The occupation chiefly found for the patients is cabinet making, straw-rope making, mat making, and work on the estate. A large amount of poultry farming is carried on at this establishment, and a number of patients are occupied in looking after the stock.

The Medical Staff consists of one Director, two Physicians, seven Assistant Physicians, and two "Volunteer" Physicians. The number of patients here is over 1,000. In the largest rooms there are 10 in a room, a number that is not exceeded. The cost per patient is 15s. per week.

A few years ago the Epileptics from Berlin were provided for in the Dalldorf Asylum. Certain portions of the Asylum were devoted to them. In consequence of their large numbers, however, all such cases are now sent to the Wuhlgarten Epileptie Asylum at Biesdorf, a suburb of Berlin. We found, in addition to the ordinary arrangements of a Lunatic Asylum that there were here two points worthy of attention. One was, that in addition to the Pavilion Wards and Convict Wards (State prisoners) there is a Colony of smaller houses situated in the fields outside the grounds of the Lunatic Asylum, in which are placed those " dements " who are improved or who are found to be trustworthy. In the Colony they live in small houses and are allowed a very considerable amount of liberty when at work in the fields or in the gardens. They are even permitted to visit their friends in Berlin. We were informed that the system is found to work very well, and that the removal of some of the restrictions adds much to the enjoyment of the patients. Any abuse of privilege—sueh as by returning drunk—is punished by a recommittal to the Asylum Pavilions. Residence in the colony is much prized by the patients, who have cultivated a considerable portion of the sandy land. We were much interested in this example of permitting suitable patients of the Asylum the greater privileges of the Colony life. The other special point of interest we found in the department for idiot children. These are placed in a separate establishment under the care of a Lehrer (that is a schoolmaster, not a medical man), who devotes himself to their education, as far as is possible.

The whole staff, as well as the arrangements of the Idiot Asylum, are under the control and supervision of the Medical Staff. A block for feeble-minded children was established in 1879. It is built on the corridor pavilion plan, the corridor running along one side of the building, so that there are windows on both sides of the corridor. The corridors are decorated with pictures, and with specimens of animal and bird life, stuffed and preserved.

The boys and girls are mixed in the school. Each child has its own separate desk and seat. The sehoolrooms are very numerous and very small. The experience of the Managers is that to have more than from 16 to 20 children in a room prevents proper attention to the lessons. The children have a course of gymnastics every day to develop them physically as far as possible. The gymnasium is well furnished with apparatus of the various necessary kinds. A very large amount of flower growing is done by the children; they have quite a nursery garden. The flowers are sold, and we were informed that 800 marks (£40) had been reeeived for them during the past season. Every child

in the establishment has a small garden about 6ft. by 3ft. which he or she is at liberty to cultivate as is thought fit. The children evidently take great pride in their gardens. Many of the children wanted us to go and inspect their particular gardens. One division of this Asylum, with regard to which we thought it unnecessary to make special enquiries is the criminal department. The patients are there kept strictly under lock and key, as they are all of the dangerous class. The dining-rooms in the children's department were decorated in a homely way, long curtains to the windows, shades to the gas brackets, and cloths on the dining-room tables, which gave rather a more homely look than is commonly found in places of this description in England. The Schoolmaster in each school is under the control of the Medical Director of the establishment.

The results attained may be described as remarkable, especially when the condition of the children has been taken into account. A great deal is certainly done towards strengthening in the children's minds the desire to be useful, and the sense of capability to produce by labour.

ASYLUM FOR EPILEPTICS AND IMBECILES, WUHLGARTEN, NEAR BERLIN.

This is an excellent Asylum. Amongst its patients are included a very large number of Epileptics, for whom special provision is made.

The buildings are numerous and exceedingly well built. They consist of a series of 51 separate erections, devoted to special purposes.

The Asylum, like Dalldorf, is situated on the sandy plain that surrounds Berlin. Its grounds may now be described as consisting of a beautiful wooded estate, and they have, of course, very little resemblance to the former condition. The avenue leading up to the buildings is planted with trees and adorned with the Virginia creeper festooned from tree to tree along the whole avenue. We were most courteously received by the Director, and shown over the whole of the buildings. These are of yellow brick, rather similar to Dalldorf, and with an even larger space between them in which the patients can take recreation themselves. We were first shown the consulting rooms

in the administrative block. These are fitted up with apparatus of the most elaborate description for testing the eyesight and hearing, and with electrical apparatus (the Rontgen ray apparatus was found in all the Asylums). In the Colony part of the establishment there are 12 houses for men and 12 for women, with from twenty to thirty-eight men or women in each house. The latter number is the largest in any one building. The buildings and gardens cover 57 hectares.* Accommodation is provided for 1,000 adults and 100 children. The total cost of the buildings and land was 5,290,000 marks.

The houses are all built in the form of villa residences with verandahs, under which the patients can sit. Most of the houses are covered outside with Virginia creeper. The boundaries of the land round the houses consist of ordinary two-strand wire fencing. There are no walled courts in the whole establishment. We found that a large number of birds, such as parrots, canaries, and doves, in cages, were used to make the wards bright and cheerful, and to attract the attention of the patients. No single dormitory in the establishment provides for more than 10 patients. The beds provided in the dormitories for epileptics have "fall-down sides." One bed is fitted with padded sides about 2ft. 6in. deep, to prevent a patient who may happen to suffer from a severe fit of epilepsy from tumbling out of it. Every bed is supplied with a bed cupboard and also a chair. In the dormitories on the women's side all the washstands are provided with white covers, which give them a cleanly appearance. They also have looking-glasses. All the dormitories have double doors opening to the verandahs. This is in order that the cold may be kept out, as the winter is more severe than in England. In the bathing places we found that dressing compartments are partitioned off and curtained. The bathing is done by means of warm douches, the water for which passes through an apparatus which shows the temperature of the water in use. The spray apparatus in the bath-room is nickel-plated to prevent rust. From the bath-room we passed to the electrical apparatus room. This is provided with an elaborate set of apparatus for medical purposes.

The recreation hall is more like a large town hall than the recreation rooms with which we are acquainted in England. It is elaborately decorated, and has a polished inlaid oak floor for dancing. The windows are fitted with long curtains, chairs are used instead of forms, and there is an excellent stage. Rooms on each side of the entrance in which refreshments may be served on special occasions are provided. There is also a smaller room, very well fitted, which is used for concerts, etc. It affords accommodation for

*One hectare equals 2.47 acres.

about 300 persons. The laundry is provided with the best appliances in ordinary use, and also with machinery similar to that used in paper mills for washing pulp, for the purpose of getting the soap thoroughly out of the garments. The drying of the clothes is effected by placing them over wooden rods running on two parallel chains through a hot closet in which the heat is so great that by the time they reach the more distant end of the room they are dry. Here as in other German Asylums, a large amount of the ironing of clothes is done by the calendar machine, which is protected by wire netting, in order that the Epileptics may not injure themselves. Next to the laundry is the boiler-house for the heating of the establishment. It contains a series of ten very large steam boilers. These supply all the heat required for the pavilions by means of pipes carried along a sub-way six feet high. From the boiler-house you pass to the engine-house, fitted with two very fine upright engines to drive the dynamos. This apparatus is in duplicate, in case one of the engines should break down. The indicators of the supply of electric light are placed on white marble slabs let into the walls of the engine-house. The battery room contains 125 cells, each cell about 3ft. by 2½ft. by 2ft.

A railway runs to the centre of the establishment, so that stores can be delivered without the trouble of carting them. We also visited the farm, which is kept in excellent condition. The farm is not included in the 57 hectares. A large amount of fruit is grown, and a considerable number of Epileptics are employed on the farm. For the male Epileptics, and such of the Imbeciles as are capable and not at work on the farm, work is provided of an interesting kind, such as carpentering, tailoring, shoemaking, straw rope plating, book-binding, basket-making, gardening, and field work. For the women there are cleaning, washing, and laundry work, and a large amount of field work when the weather permits. No sales are made, but all the produce of the labour is useful for the requirements of the Asylum.

The appearance of the patients was very gratifying; they were cheerful, active, observant, and apparently contented. Among the amusements provided for the patients is an excellent bowling alley, furnished with a desk for scoring, and a trough to allow for the return of the balls. Some of the Imbeciles, even of the most helpless kind, did not appear to be entirely without interest in what was going on around them.

The Colony is upon the Cottage system. The more intelligent, active, and trustworthy of the patients are arranged in small groups of

about 30 persons. They are employed in manual labour as carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, and in field and garden work.

We were specially pleased with the children's department. The children are under the educational care of a Master (a schoolmaster), with two male and two female Teachers. They are taught in class-rooms with not more than 15 to a room. A separate seat and desk are provided for each child, who also has his or her own lock-up box. The rooms are decorated with quite a museum of stuffed birds, models of mechanical appliances, and various kinds of diagrams, maps, and pictures. During our visit a class was being taught by a female teacher, who was able to hold the attention of nearly the whole of fifteen feeble-minded children. A coloured picture of a farmhouse and yard was placed on a stand, and the teacher, pointing to the details of the picture, obtained answers of an intelligent kind. She also called up to the stand one after another of the children to point out details of the buildings or cattle. This was quickly done by the children. The only exception was that of an imbecile boy, who was clearly incapable of understanding questions, but even he seemed to enjoy the activity around, and to be the better for being present; he had a kind of dull interest in those around him.

The gymnasium in this Asylum leaves nothing to be desired; horizontal and parallel bars, wood and rope ladders, jumping horses, and various other fittings are provided.

In the children's dormitories all the beds are fitted at the foot with a shelf which falls down at night for the patients to place their clothes upon.

The church, which is used by Catholics and Protestants in common, is fitted with pitch-pine, and is very elaborately decorated. A small room is provided at the entrance, fitted with a low couch on which to place the patients who have fits whilst attending the services, a very common occurrence.

The next building inspected was the mortuary. The mortuary proper is on the ground floor, the post-mortem room and pathological laboratory being on the second floor. The bodies are raised into the post-mortem room by a lift. The outside of the mortuary was entirely covered with vines, giving it at any rate as pleasant an appearance as possible.

It would be difficult to conceive of any addition that could be made to the establishment for the benefit of the patients.

The attendants appeared to be of a good class.

A company of male patients going out after dinner to field work were singing in unison as they walked to the fields.

ST. ANN'S ASYLUM, PARIS.

This Asylum, which is well known by reputation, is built on the pavilion plan, two stories high. All the buildings are of stone with red-tiled roofs. The pavilions are connected by covered galleries open at the sides. The grounds between the pavilions were beautifully bedded out with flowers at the time of our visit, but the patients' airing courts in this Asylum were not so cheerful as we could have wished them to be.

The wards for women which we first visited have, as is the custom on the Continent, polished floors, and are fitted with chairs, tables, and table-cloths. The dormitories are fitted with spring mattresses, and each bed is provided with a chair. All the ceilings and walls are oil painted. A considerable number of the beds here are provided with high padded sides for epileptics. The dining tables at this establishment, which are of a small size compared with the ordinary dining tables, are made of marble, and we were informed that they have not been broken. No additional expense has, therefore, been incurred by the breakage of them. Glasses are used for drinking purposes at this Asylum. Five doctors are employed.

The Asylum provides for 1,500 inmates. Of these, 300 are alcoholic and 350 are epileptic. The patients of the alcoholic class are employed in wood carving, working in paper, painting plates, and tobacco stripping, smith work, making candelabra, turning, tailoring, wood cutting, and plaster casting.

In conjunction with this Asylum there is a department devoted to the reception and care of men sent by the Medical Officer of the police of Paris as suffering from "Alcoholism"; that is, the Police Medical Officer can send to the Asylum for a period of three months, men who are convicted of drunkenness, and who are believed to be confirmed drunkards. These men are not treated as insane, but are put to such

work as they are capable of, and are detained at least three months. We saw them at work at various trades. Some were doing very good work in cabinet making, joinery, tailoring, and shoemaking. A great deal of iron work and millwright repairs for departments of the Paris Municipality are also done. Some very fair drawings for the walls of the Lunatic Asylum have been executed by "Alcoholics."

The management of the department appeared to be very good, and the men were active and cheerful.

No intoxicating drink is given, but tobacco is allowed. Any failure to work, or disobedience, is punished by the withdrawal of the tobacco.

The Asylum certainly affords an example of the merciful treatment of confirmed drunkards, in comparison with prison treatment. We could not exactly discover what was the effect on these men after they had been released. If a man return after the three months he may be detained for six months, or in some cases, for even a longer period.

That the results of the detention of drunkards with the provision of daily employment for them commends itself to the Authorities of Paris is apparent from the fact that at a short distance from St. Ann's Asylum the Municipality is, at Maison Blanche, building a new Asylum, which will be almost entirely devoted to the treatment of "Alcoholics." It is very large, and will have accommodation for between 1,500 and 2,000 inmates, in 24 pavilions. The largest dormitories will have 17 beds.

Of course, statistics of cures and restoration to sobriety, as we have said, cannot be given, but the general effect appears to have been satisfactory enough to justify the erection of this large additional Asylum for the purpose.

It is most desirable that for the United Kingdom power should be obtained to commit confirmed drunkards to some such House of Detention.

CATERHAM ASYLUM, SURREY.

On our return to England we visited Caterham Asylum. This is one of the Asylums of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, at which large numbers of the Epileptics and Imbeciles under the care of the Board are received. Of the 2,000 patients, all chronic, about 450 are epileptics.

The Asylum was opened in 1870. It has large dormitories, with but few small rooms suitable for classification. Few of the epileptics or Imbeciles are engaged in regular daily tasks. Such as are able and willing assist in the ordinary work of the Asylum. Some act as tailors, shoemakers, and general helpers, but not to an extent sufficient to enable the ordinary daily work to be done without the employment of paid workers in addition to attendants.

Dr. Stanley Elliott is strongly of opinion that Epileptics could be usefully employed to a much greater extent than is usual in England, if there could be an Asylum specially intended for them, having workshops of a suitable character and grouped in houses of not more than 30 to 35 patients in each. Indeed, he suggested the adoption of what is actually in operation in Alt-Scherbitz and Uchtspringe in Germany.

The best use is made of the Asylum under the circumstances which prevail at Caterham, and the whole Asylum is kept in excellent order. But the impression we received was that Epileptics and Imbeciles should be treated in Asylums containing pavilions for sick or helpless cases, and in Cottage Homes for those capable of work.

Dr. Stanley Elliott is entirely of this opinion. He believes the lives of the more capable Epileptics and Imbeciles would be much happier and brighter if employed under suitable attendants and in buildings where proper classification could be carried out.

One hundred and sixty acres of land are provided for the patients, an area far too small.

LIST OF COLONIES GIVEN BY DR. MARIE IN "L'ASSISTANCE DES ALIENES."

AMERICA.

New York (Willard); Massachusetts; Kalimackoo, Michigan.

ITALY.

Manicomio do Saint Lazare, near Reggio (700); Monbello, near Milan; Imolu in Emilie; Palermo; Rome.

GERMANY.

Alt-Scherbitz (station Schkeuditz); Bielefeld, Westphalia; Altbourg, Wurtemberg; Gabersee "en pays montagneux"; Emmendingen Baden; Tchardras; Ilten, near Hanover.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Slup, near Prague; Ellen, near Bremen.

RUSSIA.

Kolmovo, near Novgorod; Saratow; Bourachef.

FRANCE.

Saint-Lue (Haute-Pyréneés); La Force (Dordogne); La Teppe, near Tournon; La Devèze, near Saint-Flour; Perron, at Lyon.

LIST OF EPILEPTIC COLONIES IN REPORT OF U.S. CONFERENCE, 1890.

GERMANY.

Rotenburg, in Hanover; Mariahilf, near Munster; Olpe, Westphalia; Alexianer-Kloster Auchen; Rath, near Dusseldorf; Neustadt Thale, Saxony; Tabor, near Stettin; Karlshof, near Rastenburg; Potsdam, for Bradenburg.

HOLLAND.

Haarlem.

SWITZERLAND.

Zurich; Ruti.

NOTE.—For those who have not time to spare, probably the three Colonies—Alt-Scherbitz, via Leipsic to Schkenditz; Wuhlgarten, Berlin; Uchtspringe, near Magdeburg, via Stendal—will give a good idea of the Colony system well carried out. The last is quite new, and very complete in all the details of an Asylum, especially in the electric department. The above list is given as showing that the Colony system is being extensively adopted.

Appendix.

We have added the following notes of visits to Labour Colonies, Night Asylums, Tramp Wards, and Workhouses. They will probably bo interesting to Poor-Law Guardians.

MARIA VEEN LABOUR COLONY.

We had been informed while on the Continent that the Trappist Brothers had a Colony of Epileptics and Imbeciles. On arrival the Prior informed us that Epileptics and Imbeciles were not received, and that the Institution was entirely for men out of work, who were anxious for shelter and opportunity for fitting themselves for future employment.

There is accommodation here for 100 men. At the time of our visit there were 69 employed. The Maria Veen estate consists of moorland out of cultivation, but capable of profitable working by spade labour. This is done by labourers under the direction of the Brothers, who work with them. A very complete and well-cultivated garden has been formed out of poor sandy land, and a large acreage of arable land has been reclaimed, and now yields crops of hay, oats, potatoes, turnips, etc. A good stock of cattle are kept in a very clean and comfortable condition. The dormitories are not of a special character—large dormitories with day-rooms, bakery, brewery, and laundry. The washing of clothing is all satisfactorily done by the men. The wages are food and shelter, and some clothing if actually required. The men may leave on hearing of employment. Copies of advertisements cut from newspapers are posted up in the day-rooms.

The Colony is certainly well organised, and must be of much service in helping unemployed men who are really anxious to obtain employment, and need temporary assistance.

No man is allowed to remain beyond one year and eleven months, or he would obtain a legal settlement, which follows a two years' residence in any one locality.

BIELEFELD LABOUR COLONY.

When at Bielefeld, we took the opportunity of visiting the Labour Colony, under the care of Pastor Bodelschwingh. A very large tract

of country—many thousand acres—is in his hands. The surface is sandy and barren, but some four feet down there is a crust of hard material which cannot in its natural condition be productive. If brought to the surface and exposed to the air it crumbles like surface soil and becomes useful for cultivation. The labourers who come are occupied principally in the delving of this material, and in wheeling and spreading it on the surface of the land. Most of them then engage in ordinary farm work. Fair crops are raised. Considerable numbers of cattle are fed, and many pigs. The men are fairly well housed and fed, and are paid a small wage, beginning at 1½d. per diem. This is chiefly expended in clothing, for each man must wear clothing provided by the Colony. He is charged with the cost of the clothing, which is not great, and he usually has, before leaving, a balance to his credit. The money is not given to him when he goes away, but it is remitted to the employer when he obtains work. A man who absconded with his clothing unpaid for, would very quickly be found under the German system of official surveillance. Bielefeld is an instance of successful management of a Labour Colony. The principle of associating with the men in their work, the Superintendents and Deacons with the labourers, is carried out.

BERLIN LABOUR COLONY.

This is a philanthropic institution supported by voluntary contributions. It is intended as a shelter, with, in addition, subsistence to be worked for by men out of employment.

Men are admitted on giving a promise to perform tasks of a useful character, and are not as a rule allowed to remain more than four months, though some remain longer if no suitable employment has been found. There were when we visited 140 men in the Colony—all were employed—the articles made being brushes of several descriptions, mats, packing cases (in large numbers), baskets, etc. Firewood is cut by men less skilled in handicrafts. The men who are most skilled and produce the best work are put on piece-work; their earnings they receive on leaving the Colony.

The arrangements for sleeping, eating, washing, and the mending of clothing and linen are good, and there is an air of contentment and industry throughout. We certainly did not see the utterly degraded,



BERLIN NIGHT ASYLUM.

careless tramp, with whom we are so well acquainted in England. The appearance of all the men was that of working men. The Director is evidently warmly interested in the work, and desirous of being personally useful to the men in every way possible. None are admitted under 16 years of age.

(The Director told us that an attempt had been made by a Society in Berlin to open a Colony for married couples; but it was found very difficult to find employment suited for them. A system of selling small quantities of coal and firewood had been tried, but not continued.)

At this Colony a considerable portion of the cost is refunded by the sale of articles made by the men. The Director told us of a Night Shelter on a large scale—the "Berliner Manner Asyls"—which we visited.

BERLIN NIGHT ASYLUM, WIESSENSTRASSE, 55-59.

This is a very large night shelter for men. It is in every sense a Tramp Ward of most excellent arrangement and construction, admirably furnished for the purpose. Light, ventilation, and all sanitary details are well attended to.

The drawings in our printed report give a slight idea of the interior, but no description can enable the reader to realize the excellence of workmanship, the solidity of all the fittings, and the economy of space. The fittings are as good as could be expected in a Free Library or Board School, yet there is nothing whatever of a simply ornamental character. The whole of the departments are light, airy, and substantial. The electric light is used; and all the power needed for cooking, and washing bed clothes, etc., is provided by electricity. Only the driving of the dynamos and the heating of the wards are done by steam.

There are 700 beds, and nearly all are filled nightly. The men enter, have good warm baths, receive good food, and sleep on clean wire mattresses with two thick coverings, one below on the mattress, the other covering the sleeper. Each man has breakfast in the morning and then leaves. He must not re-appear more than four times in the month. As there are often more applicants than can be taken in, only well-conducted men are admitted. Any bad conduct would disqualify a man for re-admission, so that no difficulty in keeping order has arisen. One Officer on duty during the night is sufficient.

The establishment is admirable for the purpose intended, which is to provide a decent shelter for men without means of obtaining lodgings. No task whatever is imposed. The men must simply leave early in the morning—no one being allowed to remain during the day.

In summer they may enter at 6 in the evening; in winter at 5. In summer they rise at 4 o'clock; in winter at 5 o'clock.

There are a large eating room with good table and forms, and a library of books and papers, with abundance of light.

It appeared the beau-ideal of a Tramp Ward if, amongst the excellent and complete arrangements, there could be such a task added as would render it proper to use public rates for the aid of men who avail themselves of its comforts.



WORKHOUSE, DRESDEN.

This is a Workhouse intended solely for men and women who shirk work, and are not thought worthy of aid by philanthropic societies. They are sent by the Magistrates, who have power to order the detention for three months and longer periods of persons without means of subsistence, and of known bad character (our rogues and vagabonds).

On admission the men are usually employed in the cutting and packing of firewood. Others, who are capable, are put at once to the making of besoms, which is the principal business of the House—800,000 being made yearly, and readily sold. Such men as are suitable are employed as carpenters, tailors, and shoemakers. Many of the women are employed making paper bags of small size for shops. The work is easily learned and a new comer is usually put to it. A considerable number of women do the washing of the place, without any machines except a centrifugal drying machine, worked by hand. The reason for the absence of machinery is that it is desired to teach them the system of washing most suitable for domestic purposes. They wash all the towels and other linen used in the municipal offices in Dresden.

The buildings are substantial and well arranged, and comprise a moderate-sized ground for exercise, planted with trees.

The diet is fresh meat twice a week, bread and soup on other days. The bread and soup were of good quality. Three meals a day are given.

The inmates wear the clothing of the House. Most of them re-



BERLIN NIGHT ASYLUM.

quire some clothing when they leave, and this is paid for out of the earnings which all the well-conducted inmates accumulate whilst at work.

It appeared to us a successful solution of the vagabond difficulty in Dresden. The inmates seemed cheerful, and had not much of the appearance of men and women of bad character.

The bed-rooms are comfortable, the beds and bedding being clean and warm.

The building provides accommodation for 250 men and 150 women. The usual number in residence is 160 men and 90 women, so that it is evidently sufficient for the requirements of the municipality of Dresden.

TRAMP WARD, AVENUE DE CHOISY, PARIS.

This is one of two Tramp Wards in Paris, and it is fitted up for 200 men. A man applying for entrance, if received, is detained three days, and must work. The tasks are principally cutting firewood and putting up the cut wood into small bundles tied with wire—one end is dipped into melted resin. The work is neatly done, and the wood is sold in Paris. If a man is capable of working at a trade, anxious to get work, and is not a vagrant, the authorities have power to allow him to remain 25 days. They give him work such as he can do, and pay him sixpence a day wages in addition to food and shelter, thus enabling him to save something to start with. The men are employed in tailoring, shoemaking, repairs of machines and furniture, and other occupations, for departments of the Municipality.

The sleeping rooms are large. The beds have wire mattresses—two thin mattresses—and coverlets.

The food is well-cooked—vegetables, soup, and bread— certainly more palatable than is usual in our Tramp wards. No beer is given.

The work-rooms are pleasant; the centre of the place is well planted with trees, under which the men can sit in the summer when they are not at work.

The average number lodged nightly is 160. There is another similar Tramp Ward in Paris with accommodation for 300 persons nightly.

P.S.—We did not see a plank bed anywhere.

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